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INDIA, CEYLON, AND NEPAL

Aug. 3, 1960

WEST BENGALI INVITED TO POWERS' TRIAL

Bombay PII Radioteletype in English to Tokyo, Aug. 3, 1960, 0930 GMT--B

(Text) Calcutta, Aug. 3--The Soviet Government has invited S.K. Acharyya, barrister-at-law and a member of the West Bengal legislative council, to be present during the trial of John Garry Powers, the pilot of the U-2, which is scheduled to start in Moscow on Aug. 17.

The invitation has been received by Acharyya from Gorshenin, president of the law section of the friendship societies of the USSR. Acharyya will leave Delhi for Moscow on Aug. 13.

Possible Death Sentence

(Editor's Note) According to REUTERS on Aug. 3, TASS quoted Soviet "legal specialist" Dr. B. Nikiforov that Powers' probable sentence for his alleged espionage flight will be death or from 7 to 15 years imprisonment.

CEYLON WILL NATIONALIZE NEWSPAPERS

Bombay PII Radioteletype in English to Tokyo, Aug. 2, 1960, 1814 GMT--B

(Text) Colombo, Aug. 2--The Ceylon Government has decided to take over the national newspapers of the country, according to the English morning paper, the Ceylon DAILY NEWS.

In the early edition of its issue dated Wednesday, Aug. 3, available here tonight, the paper reported: "It is understood that the government has decided to take over the national newspapers of Ceylon. This will be done by means of a corporation in which the government will have block holdings. Shares will also be sold to members of the public."

"The government has also decided to appoint a press commission to investigate activities of the national press of Ceylon and of public servants in the recent general election. Personnel of the press commission will be announced by the government shortly.

"According to government sources, the minister of justice, Sam P.C. Fernando, has been directed to report to the government on the legal powers that are to be vested in the commission."

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No official comment was readily available on the report. But the appointment of a press commission was one of the points in the election manifesto of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party which assumed office after a landslide victory in last month's elections.

Speaking on the role of the press which as a whole has opposed the Sri Lanka Freedom Party and its electoral alliance, Felix Dias Bandaranaike told the press on July 23 on the eve of his assumption of office as finance minister: "There are only two groups of newspapers of note in Ceylon (the Associated newspapers and the TIMES of Ceylon--PTI). We might seriously consider taking over one or we might think of legislation to convert them into public companies that it is not possible for monopoly interests to control. Government will certainly not have a stranglehold. It is vital that something be done to remedy the unfair balance of ownership which gives advantage to capitalist interests. We don't want to deny them the right to express their views, but we want to safeguard the liberty of the press."

'TIME' BANNED FOR DISPARAGING NEW PREMIER

Bombay PTI Radioteletype in English to Tokyo, Aug. 2, 1960, 1436 GMT--B

(Excerpt) Colombo, Aug. 2--The Ceylon Government today announced it had banned the importation of the latest issue of the American news magazine TIME in view of references in it "disparaging" Prime Minister Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike. The announcement said the government had authorized the collector of customs to impound all copies of the issue which is dated Aug. 1.

The announcement followed a meeting of the cabinet at which a statement of policy and program of the government was finalized for incorporation in the opening address of Governor-General Sir Oliver Goonetilleke to be delivered before a joint session of Ceylon's new parliament on Aug. 12.

MRS BANDARANAIKE IS NAMED TO SENATE

Bombay PTI Radioteletype in English to Tokyo Aug. 2, 1960, 1801 GMT--B

(Text) Colombo, Aug. 2--Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, Prime Minister of Ceylon, was today nominated a member of the senate, upper house of the country's parliament.